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### **Ethnic conflict in the Baltic States as a threat to security in Europe**

The most important task of the OSCE is to prevent armed conflicts, especially conflicts arising on ethnic grounds. The solution to this problem involves the early identification of ethnic conflicts and take measures to prevent their development. This problem is solved by the organization underperforms, as evidenced by at least the appearance of one and a half years ago, the ethnic conflict in Ukraine. Ukraine's leaders two decades, taken steps to forced assimilation of its Russian population, and these steps are OSCE members do not want to notice. The result of this approach, the surface was a civil war in the heart of Europe, many thousands killed, destroyed houses and factories, millions of refugees, whether to make conclusions from what happened in the heart of Europe's tragedies? It seems that some do not.

Similar to Ukrainian, acute ethnic conflict for two decades developing in the Baltic countries. The reason for it is the discrimination against the Russian minority ruling elites of the titular. Discrimination against the Russian population in the broadest sense of the word, as the people living in the Russian cultural and linguistic basis. For the purposes of our analysis, conventionally defined as the totality of their ethnic Russian, Belarusians and Ukrainians voluntarily chose Russian identity.

Facts discrimination of Russian in the Baltic States are known, have repeatedly noted in the report of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Commission. However, we call the major ones again.

1. After the formation of the independent republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the authorities began to forcibly displace them from the Russian population. The share of Russian, which we adopted in the broadest sense of the word, for the period from 1989 to 2011. Latvia decreased from 41.9% to 32.4%, in Estonia from 35.1% to 28.0%, in Lithuania from 12.3% to 7.5%.

2. Russian population was the entire period under review forced assimilation. This was expressed in the following actions of the authorities:

a) In all three Baltic countries, Russian was declared foreign and fully eliminated from public circulation. The power to create linguistic commission, which impose heavy fines on those who use the Russian language outside the family;

Forced displacement of the Russian language from public circulation caused a natural resistance to the Russian population. For example, in Latvia this resistance manifested in the conduct of the referendum, in 2012 for giving Russian a second state language. All the legal capacity the Russian population voted in the referendum for the improvement of the status of their native language. Because of that, the Russian population in the minority, as well as the fact that 40% of Russian denied the rights of citizenship referendum was not won. The

republic's authorities have completely ignored the results of the referendum and only tightened the language policy of persecution of foreigners.

b) In all three Baltic countries to the top of the 2000s it was forcibly liquidated higher and secondary education in Russian at public expense;

c) In all three Baltic countries began to curtail education in secondary schools in Russian public funds.

If the 1990/1991 biennium. in Russian in Latvia were enrolled 46.8% of children in the years 2014/2015. only 28.6%, which is significantly lower than the proportion of the total number of Russian inhabitants of the republic (32.4%).

If in Estonia in 1995 in Russian enrolled 32.3% of the children in 2014 only 16.9% (the Russian share in the total population of 28.0%).

Lithuania since 2003 has ceased to keep records of the number of students studying in Russian. There are data on the number of schools in which education is conducted in more than one language. In 2015, there were 42 pieces. or 3.5% of the total number of schools. Considering that the number of these schools included Russian and Polish schools, the Russian-language schools in the country have no more than 1.0%, and this despite the fact that Russian is home to more than 7.5%.

The relatively high number of students in Russian schools in Latvia due to the massive protests that took place in the country in connection with the attempts of the authorities to ban education in Russian in 2003-2004. In these protests involving tens of thousands of people and they are allowed to defend the right to education in their native Russian language.

In Lithuania and Estonia, the Russian public has not been as successful in defending their rights to education in their mother tongue,

In senior high school education in the Baltic States is already largely in languages of the titular nations of school programs are practically excluded items, telling children about their native Russian culture, history, or are given a distorted view.

d) practically stopped financing from the budget of cultural institutions that reproduce Russian culture. The museum exhibition devoted to the history eliminated Russian, from libraries confiscated and destroyed books in Russian.

d) In all three Baltic republics were abolished state television and radio channels broadcasting in Russian, imposed significant restrictions on the operation of private companies, broadcasting in Russian;

Upon liquidation of own channels of mass communication in Russian, the authorities of the Baltic countries to impose a ban on the retransmission of television and radio channels from the Russian Federation, of which the Baltic Russian only, and may receive information in their native language, familiar with native culture. For Russian determine what information they can get, and what not.

Remaining on the First Baltic television channel (PBC) is continuously subjected to punishment for the fact that the content of its programs does not match the official ideology imposed on the population by the current authorities. So, at the end of 2013 PBC three

months banned broadcasting in Lithuania. In May 2004, the PBC in Latvia was fined 3.6 thousand. Euros in October 2015, 10 thousand. Euro.

With all the restrictions on access to education in Russian, learn Russian culture, to have access to media in their own language, Russian continues to act as obedient taxpayers. It turns out that their taxes go to support the reproduction of national identity, Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians. There is a clear ethnic exploitation.

3. In 1991, Latvia was forcibly deprived of citizenship rights of 700 thousand people, 300 thousand people in Estonia. Almost all of them were Russian. At the beginning of 2015 in Latvia was 262.2 thousand non-citizens in Estonia, 84,800 non-citizens.

Russian non-citizens are not only eligible to participate in the political life of their country of residence for a quarter century, but also have more than eighty restrictions on social and economic rights, as compared to the citizens.

Discrimination is most severe affects the position of the Russian population. Here is just one example of its impact on the performance of the natural reproduction of the population in Latvia.

The birth rate of the Latvian population in 1989 was 15.1 per thousand, the birth rate of 13.8 per thousand of the Russian population that is slightly different. In 2014, the birth rate was, respectively, 12.8 ppm at 5.9 ppm and Russian Latvians. That is, the birth rate among the Russian population has become more than twice lower than that of the Latvian population.

The mortality rate of the Latvian population in 1989 was 13.5 per thousand, Russian - 10.2 ppm, that is not very different. In 2014, the mortality rate was 12.6 Latvians ppm, that is virtually unchanged, but at the entire Russian he became 17.3 ppm, that is increased by more than half.

The calculation was made on the total number of Russian, Ukrainians and Belarusians in accordance with the earlier installation.

Total, we see that if the natural growth of Latvians and Russian in 1989 was practically the same, by the end of life in the Republic of Latvia Latvians have preserved the natural increase of 0.3 per thousand, while the Russian extinction observed at 11.4 ppm. The difference in the natural movement of Latvians and Russian was 38 times! This is a clear indicator of the level is very symptomatic of discrimination of the Russian population in Latvia. In no other country in the world there are no such differences in the level of natural reproduction of various ethnic groups. A similar situation is observed with the natural movement against the Russian population of Lithuania and Estonia.

The ruling elites of the Baltic republics, instead of being concerned about the improvement of relations with the Russian minority have a line on the complete suppression of its legal protests. As a target for the attacks they chose Russian community activists and movements for the rights of non-citizens.

All Russian activists Baltic authorities have identified the enemies of national security. The reports of the political police of their equated to international terrorists, chased by the state apparatus - organized surveillance against them, conduct searches of residence and work, to

arrest. impose a ban on travel between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Several dozen people were prosecuted on trumped-up reasons.

However, the authorities encourage inciting anti-Russian sentiments in society. In Latvia, for example, six months ago, the Internet began collecting signatures for the isolation of non-citizens in the concentration camps. It collected nearly two thousand signatures.

Member of Parliament from the opposition party "Consent" A. Elksninsh asked the Security Police demanding an end to so inflame hatred of Russian non-citizens.

Security Police refused to initiate criminal case, because they do not see in the actions of the initiators of collecting signatures to send non-citizens in the concentration camps of the offense.

At the same time the Security Police opened a criminal case against the activist of the Parliament of unrepresented Alexander Gaponenko for inciting national hatred on the basis of the publication in the newspaper phrase of the American tanks are located in the Baltic States in order to "keep in fear of local Russian."

This fear A. Gaponenko expressed in connection with the performances of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia V. Spolitisa which expressly stated that non-citizens are interned in the event of the outbreak of hostilities and military already work out at the landfill method of isolation of the population.

Military and now continue in Latvia exercises in methods of arrest and isolation of civil society, creates a lasting impression that these Russian activists.

Very often, the blame of activists representing the interests of the Russian population was the fact that they are the petitions and appeals to the international organizations, including the act at sessions of the OSCE. September 28 is your Rapporteur spoke at the session on the human dimension of the OSCE in Warsaw, on the facts complained of persecution for their beliefs, and on arrival to Riga found out that it initiated against the second criminal case.

These are just some evidence of that in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia there is an ethnic conflict, and their governments do not seek to weaken it, and support its development. They completely ignore the guidelines developed by the OSCE: Bolzano recommendation Ljubljana recommendations.

It seems that the leadership of the OSCE must create a commission that would have prevented the development of ethnic conflicts in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, like the one that exists in Ukraine. It should be borne in mind that the authorities of the Baltic countries completely ignored universally recognized norms of treatment of national minorities and widely used coercive apparatus to persecute activist's Russian public organizations and non-citizens.